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Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
Third session
3-17 March 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with past practice in respect of special sessions of the General Assembly and is submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" for its consideration with a view to providing recommendations for adoption by the Assembly at its special session.

I. Draft provisional agenda

2. The preparatory committee may wish to recommend the adoption of the following draft provisional agenda for the special session of the General Assembly:

* E/CN.6/2000/PC/1.

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1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Namibia.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action.
9. Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Platform for Action.
10. Adoption of the final document(s).

II. Organizational arrangements

3. The preparatory body may wish to recommend the organizational arrangements set forth below for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be held at Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2000.

President

4. The special session should be held under the presidency of the President of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

Vice-Presidents

5. The Vice-Presidents of the special session should be the same as those of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-third Special Session.

7. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairperson and nine Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the preparatory committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Credentials Committee

8. The Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

General Committee

9. The General Committee of the special session should consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Rules of procedure

10. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the special session.

Level of representation

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, participation in the special session should be at a high political level.

Debate in plenary

12. Statements in the debate in plenary should not exceed seven minutes.

13. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary should be established by a drawing of lots. Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes or Princesses and Heads of Government should be given precedence in the establishment of the list of speakers and in the speaking order and should have equal standing as regards the list of speakers. They should be followed by Ministers/Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Chairmen of Delegation/Vice-Ministers and Chairmen of Delegation.

Allocation of items

14. All items of the draft provisional agenda should be allocated to the plenary, and items 8 and 9 should also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Participation of speakers other than Member States

15. Observers may make statements in the debate in the plenary.

16. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, States members of specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations may participate in the special session in the capacity of observers.

17. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/142, associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women.

18. Representatives of the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

19. In its resolution 53/120 of 9 December 1998, the General Assembly invited the Commission on the Status of Women, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, in March 1999, to recommend to the General Assembly appropriate arrangements for the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session.

Schedule of plenary meetings

20. Ten plenary meetings will be held over the five-day period, with two meetings per day as follows: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.